2G Licence

†761. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecom Regulator TRAI has advised Government not to issue any new 2G licence till it gives its recommendations with regard to spectrum allocation and cost;

(b) the response of Government on the advice of TRAI;

(c) the number of companies who have applied for 2G licence till date and how many of them have been issued licence; and

(d) the possibility of impact of delay in issuing licence on the mobile trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) On 4th August 2009, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has informed Department of Telecommunications (DoT) that since it is undertaking comprehensive exercise on overall spectrum management and review of licence terms and conditions, the DoT may keep in abeyance the grant of any new access service license till finalization of these recommendations and decisions thereupon by Government. Government has not issued any new access service license thereafter.

(c) 53 companies had applied for grant of new Unified Access Service (UAS) Licence(s) from 11.11.2003 (*i.e.* introduction of UAS licensing regime) till date the 24 companies had been issued UAS licence(s) in various service areas of the country.

(d) There are 12 to 14 telecom access service licensees in each service area and sufficient competition is already in place. Therefore, no immediate adverse impact is envisaged.

Cable and tower maintenance

762. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. is planning to outsource cable and tower maintenance operations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the impact of this on BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has no plan to outsource cable maintenance operations. However, it has planned to outsource tower maintenance operations in the country.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As per prevailing practices in BSNL, Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) is in place for second line maintenance of equipment with the network supply vendors. Moreover, it has been decided to outsource the work of diesel filling in remote areas, wherever internal resources are inadequate.

(c) Enhanced efficiency in maintenance of Base Transceiver Station (BTS) sites.

Saving accounts in post offices

763. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of post offices so far as coverage of population and villages is concerned in Jharkhand;

(b) the number of postal saving accounts at present in Jharkhand;

(c) the number of these that belong to women; and

(d) the target set for opening of new saving accounts in post offices during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) At the present 3093 Post Offices consisting of 13 HOs, 435 SOs and. 2645 BOs an covering the population and villages in Jharkhand.

(b) Number of Savings Accounts in Jharkhand circle is 49, 93, 224 at the end of 31.10.2009.

(c) No separate information regarding accounts belonging to women is maintained.

(d) The target for opening of new Savings Accounts in Post Office in Jharkhand during 2009-10 is 25.26 Lakh.

Availability of 3G spectrum

764. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is disparity between availability of 3G spectrum across different circles;

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to address the issue of disparity between availability of 3G spectrum across different circles;

(c) the number of operators that are planned to be awarded 3G spectrum in each of the service areas; and

(d) the manner in which Government proposes to make available more spectrum in these areas and the time-frame for making available such spectrum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.